MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: May I know how it was that the leather goods found satisfactory by the Anchal Superintendent and the Excise Commissioner were not found satisfactory by the Commandant?

PRESIDENT: I think I may explain that. The goods indented for by the Excise Commissoner and the Anchal Superintendent are not the same as those indented for by the Commandant. The pouches and other articles required by the Anchal Superintendent, the local manufactures are able to make satisfactorily.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the cost of a pair of boots locally made and that of a pair which is foreign-made?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise now.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether the President of the Council can answer interpellations.

PRESIDENT: The President can speak at any time.

**Antakara Azhi.**

213. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the annual cost of closing and opening the Antakara Azhi.

(*b*) whether this work cannot be given to private contractors, at a cheaper rate; and

(*c*) whether this work was ever given to private contractors, and if so, what the amount for which the work was given was, and whether the work was done properly?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The annual cost of the work fluctuates according to the nature of the current and tides in the sea at the time of closing and opening the bar. The annual cost may, however, be roughly fixed at Rs. 3,766, which is the average for the years from 1090 to 1097, except in 1096 when the expenditure was higher, as several attempts had to be made for closing the bar.

(*b*) The work can be given to reliable contractors provided they come forward to take it up at a moderate cost.

(*c*) The work was given on contract to Mr. Avira Tarakan of Parayil in Shertallai during 1096 for Rs. 3,750, but on actual execution he had to be paid an *extra* sum of Rs. 1,495. The work done by the contractor is reported to have been unsatisfactory on the whole.

**Yield of Sweet Toddy.**

214. MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of sweet toddy approximately yielded per year by 957 cocoanut, 165 palmyra and 128 sago palm trees (*vide* Administration Report for 1096)?

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